

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Canceled) A mechanical joint for use in the construction of an article, said joint comprising:

a tubular first member for connection with a second member, and wherein said first member is provided with an opening defined by first and second edges to reveal an interior surface of the first member, with adjacent portions of the tubular first member angled with respect to one another, and an insert received and retained within the opening to form the mechanical joint and wherein at the location of the opening, the adjacent portions of the tubular first member are joined together by a single thickness band of material at said opening so that the interior surface of the first member mates with said insert.

2. (Previously Canceled) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterized in that the first member is provided with a series of apertures formed at spaced intervals and each of said apertures is provided for the formation of a mechanical joint in accordance with the invention.

3. (Currently Canceled) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said second member lies in a plane substantially perpendicular to the plane of a longitudinal axis of said first tubular member.

4. (Currently Canceled) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said first tubular

member is provided in an initial condition in an elongate form and the movement of said first and second edges of the opening is about a pivotal axis located in said opening or adjacent thereto so that said first tubular member, when the joint is formed has relatively angled first and second portions at or adjacent to the formed joint.

5. (Currently Canceled) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said opening is formed so as to extend from one side of the first tubular member substantially across the majority of said first tubular member to the opposite side leaving said single thickness band of material at said opening.

6. (Currently Canceled) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said insert is provided in said opening and has upper and lower collars which protrude respectively above or below said first tubular member.

7. (Previously Canceled) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 characterized in that in one form the second member positioned in the aperture is a former and is subsequently moved out of the aperture and replaced by an insert which can be held in position

8. (Currently Canceled) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said second member is attached to an insert held with said opening.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method comprising the following steps:

taking a first elongated member, and forming an opening depending from one edge of said member, ~~said opening being formed by cutting into and removing material from said first elongated member~~ to leave a band of material at said opening to reveal an interior surface of said first elongated member;

positioning a second member in said opening so that said interior surface mates therewith;
and

moving the first elongated member to move first and second edges of said opening towards one another to a degree to trap and engage the second member in said opening.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said first and second edges are respectively moved so as to substantially close said opening and hence retain said second member ~~or insert~~ in position in said opening.

11. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said opening is completely closed by the provision of a closing member.

12. (Previously Canceled) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method including the following steps:

taking a first elongate member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member;

positioning a former in the aperture; and

moving at least one portion of the member to at least partially close the opening to an extend which is sufficient to prevent the former from passing through the opening;

13. (Previously Canceled) A method according to claim 12 wherein said former is removed by sliding the same out of said aperture and replaced by an insert or second member which is positioned to engage in the opening and so engage a second member with said first member directly or via the insert.
14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said second member ~~insert~~ is a former retained in position in said opening ~~and to which said second member is connected~~.
15. (Previously Canceled) A method according to claim 12 wherein said former is part of said second member trapped in position to form the mechanical joint.
16. (Previously Canceled) An item formed from at least a first and second member, said item comprising: being formed by engaging the second member with the first member via a mechanical joint and wherein said mechanical joint is formed with the first member including an opening defined therein for the reception of the second member or means to which the second member can be attached, said edges defining the opening moved to trap the means or second member in the opening and thereby form the item of furniture.
17. (Previously Canceled) An item according to claim 16 wherein the item is formed from a series of selectively engaged members, at least one of said engagements made via a mechanical joint as herein described.

18. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said opening is completely closed by the provision of weld material

19. (Currently Amended) A mechanical joint according to Claim ~~1~~ 9 wherein a forming means is provided initially in said opening and is subsequently moved out of said opening and replaced by said second member ~~insert~~ which is held in position in said opening in said first member to form the mechanical joint.

20. (Currently Canceled) A mechanical joint for use in construction of an article, said joint comprising:

a tubular member having a first side and a second side having an opening formed therein, said opening defined by first and second edges of said second side of said tubular member and forming a single thickness band of material in said first side of said tubular member at said opening;

a second member having dimensions to be received within said opening; and

said mechanical joint being formed to retain said second member in said opening by moving said first edge of said second side of said tubular member and second edge of said tubular member toward each other until said edges are adjacent to each other and said single thickness of said tubular member first side surrounds said second member.